

Maintenance Management

The County Road Administration Board is addressing maintenance management practices in the counties. The intent of this initiative is to increase the use of formal maintenance management systems in county maintenance operations and to implement a Standard of Good Practice related to maintenance management. Use of a maintenance management system can provide clear linkage between maintenance objectives, activities, levels of service, budget and actual performance.

Details of the Maintenance Management Project can be found on CRAB's website (www.crab.wa.gov). This website currently includes the following:

- Overview of Maintenance Management
- Current standard of good practice for maintenance management from WAC 136-11
- Results from the survey of maintenance management system use in the counties
- The maintenance section (Section 7) from the County Engineers' Manual
- Sample maintenance activity guidelines from several counties

Our current focus is to address the building blocks of a formal maintenance management system (MMS). These building blocks provide the foundation upon which a well-documented maintenance program can be based. Typical building blocks, or the elements of a formal MMS, include a list of what is maintained (feature inventory), how it is maintained (activity guidelines), and how much maintenance work is needed (service levels). Compiling this information in a useful format can be quite a challenge; however, by utilizing information from counties currently using a maintenance management system, this process can be facilitated. There is a wealth of information available from the counties and, as we continue to discuss maintenance management, we will make such information available through our website.

There are a number of maintenance-related stormwater issues, or stormwater-related maintenance issues. These are being addressed by numerous agencies affected by Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act requirements. The Regional Road Maintenance ESA Program Guidelines (see the following website for additional details: www.metrokc.gov/roadcon/bmp/pdfguide.htm) provide a set of road maintenance policies and practices that will meet the dual goals of contributing to the conservation of ESA listed species, while meeting critical roadway safety and maintenance needs. The Regional Road Maintenance program contributes to conservation through ten program elements, including road maintenance best management practices (BMPs) and an in-depth workforce training program.

The purpose of the Regional Road Maintenance ESA Program Guidelines is to provide a consistent Regional Program that can be used by any agency wishing to seek a take limit (NMFS) and/or a reduction or elimination of the take prohibition of threatened species (USFWS) under the 4(d) Rule. The Regional Program consists of three parts: Part 1: Regional Program Elements; Part 2: Best Management Practices; Part 3: Application. Under the Regional Program, each agency must prepare a Part 3 Application. Currently, seven counties (Clallam, King, Kitsap, Mason, Pierce, Snohomish and Thurston), including the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), are applying for a take limit from NMFS. Their Part 3 Applications can be found at the above website.